

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Nicholas V. NECHITAILO, et al.

Appln. No.: Not Yet Known

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Known

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Known

Filed: October 10, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Known

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE VARIATION OF EXCESS FIBER  
LENGTH IN BUFFER TUBES OF FIBER OPTIC CABLES

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

--This application claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/256,454 filed on  
December 20, 2000, under the provisions of 35 USC 119(e).--

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